



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chair
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2164 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As you prepare the Water Resources and Development Act of 2022, I am requesting funding for the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District (MVSD) Mineral Ridge Dam Rehabilitation project.

The project sponsor is the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District, and the project is located at 1181 Ohltown-McDonald Road, Mineral Ridge, OH 44440. The project is physically located in Ohio's 13th Congressional District, but also provides a vital water supply to constituents in Ohio's 6th and Ohio's 14th Congressional Districts.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the nearly 100-year-old, Class 1 high hazard earthen, Mineral Ridge dam. Regulatory requirements have changed since its construction in 1928, and updates are needed to address known deficiencies and comply with current Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) regulations (ORC 1501:21-13) to contain the Probable Maximum Flood.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to benefit local communities by preventing a dam failure and preserving the priority drinking water source in the Mahoning Valley region. It is the region's largest water supply source that is treated and distributed at the Meander Water treatment plant to over 220,000 end users in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, Ohio, including the cities of Youngstown, Niles, Girard, Canfield, Lordstown, and the Village of McDonald.

The dam is of vital importance to human health, economic welfare, safety and security of the Mahoning Valley region and the nation. In the event of a dam failure, nearly all lifelines in the affected communities would be severed. Most notable are the interruptions in safety and security for law enforcement and fire services; food production and water for agriculture; medical care and supply chains; mass transit and transportation; and water contamination and facility pollutants. A dam breach jeopardizes operations at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, the

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military facility located at the Youngstown–Warren Regional Airport. There is no other large enough water treatment or supply system that could supply drinking water to the region.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress